

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 041110Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2097

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RABAT 2492

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MO LY

SUBJECT: RUMORS OF MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RAPPROCHEMENT

1. DURING PAST WEEK, RUMOR OF POSSIBLE MOROCCAN-LIBYAN RAPPROCHEMENT HAS BEEN MAKING ROUNDS HERE. MOST SPECIFIC BIT OF SPECULATION HAS BEEN THAT MAJOR JALLUD WOULD VISIT RABAT. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD BY JOURNALIST WHOSE IMAGINATION OFTEN OUTRUNS HIS BETTER JUDGEMENT THAT THERE IS SOME SORT OF NEGOTIATION NOW IN PROGRESS AIMED AT IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. SAME SOURCE HAS PUBLISHED ARTICLE IN HIS INDEPENDENT BIWEEKLY SPECULATING THAT JALLUD RECOGNIZES BANKRUPTCY OF LIBYAN POLICY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO EGYPT, AND IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN MENDING FENCES WITH MOROCCO AS COUNTER TO DIPLOMATIC FAILURES ELSEWHERE. LIBYAN CHARGE, HIS MOROCCAN OPPOSITE NUMBER WHO IS BACK ON CONSULTATIONS, AND FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE ALL DENY THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE IN SITUATION. FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE ADDS THAT MOROCCANS WOULD BE WILLING TO ALLOW RAPPROCHEMENT TO HAPPEN, PROVIDED LIBYANS MADE FIRST MOVE.

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2. COMMENT: WE DISCOUNT RUMOR OF JALLUD VISIT WHICH WE BELIEVE STARTED AS RESULT OF JOURNALIST'S SPECULATION AND WISHFUL THINKING THAT JALLUD MIGHT BE ASYILLWNLQMLAYELF# VIS-A-VIS QADHAFI. ANTI-LIBYAN PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS, STOPPED DURING RAMADAN WAR, HAVE NOT BEEN RENEWED, BUT MOROCCAN PRESS HAS COVERED LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC DIFFICULTIES IN UNUSUAL DETAIL AND WITH OBVIOUS RELISH.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY GENERAL COMMENT EMBASSY TRIPOLI MIGHT HAVE ON RUMOR AND WOULD BEINTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY SHIFT IN LIBYAN PUBLIC LINE TOWARDS REGIME HERE.
NEUMANN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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